

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-19 stand in the present application. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 11, 12, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Karten; has rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura, Karten and Kravets et al.; and has rejected claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura, Karten and Paik et al. Since Karten and Kravets et al. do not constitute prior art against the present application, the Examiner's §§ 102 and 103 rejections of the claims is improper and Applicants respectfully request that they be withdrawn and that the case be passed to issue.

More particularly, the present application claims priority from a Great Britain application GB 9816648.1 filed on July 30, 1998. Since the earliest effective § 102(e) filing date of Karten is June 4, 1999 and for Kravets et al. is July 30, 1998, neither of these references constitute prior art against the present application. Accordingly, claims 11, 12, 15 and 19 cannot be anticipated by Karten and the remaining claims cannot be obvious over any combination of references which includes Karten and/or Kravets et al. Accordingly, all of claims 11-19 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 11-19, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response

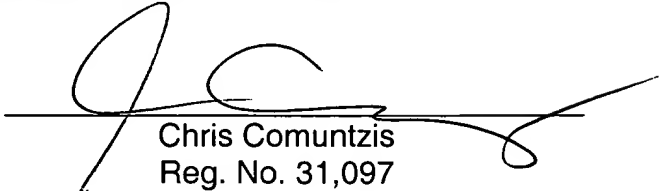
STEEL et al
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or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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